

## Message Text

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13  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 /074 W  
----- 058623

R 312130Z AUG 76  
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2971  
INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
AMCONSUL BELIZE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USCINCSO  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 6138

E.O. 11652 NA  
TAGS: PBOR, PINS, GT, BH, CU, UK  
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SUBJ: GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT SAYS CUBAN INTERVENTION IN  
BELIZE POSSIBLE

REF: GUATEMALA 3529, BELIZE 431

1. IN TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 30, PRESIDENT LAUGERUD WAS ASKED WHETHER THE INCREASED GUERRILLA ACTIVITY IN NORTHERN GUATEMALA WAS DUE TO AID INSURGENTS WERE RECEIVING FROM CUBA IN COOPERATION WITH BELIZE, AND WHETHER THERE WAS ANYTHING TO RUMOR THAT A SECTOR OF THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT WAS INVOLVED WITH THE GUERRILLAS AND THIS HAD LED TO A CHANGE IN GOG'S POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR COOPERATIVES.

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2. LAUGERUD SAID WIRE SERVICES HAD RECENTLY REPORTED

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT BY CUBAN GOVERNMENT THAT UNNAMED MEMBERS OF GUATEMALAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PGT) WERE VISITING HABANA. FOR THIS AND MANY OTHER REASONS IT IS UNDENIABLE, IT IS ABSOLUTELY TRUE, THAT THE GUERRILLAS, THE EGP, HAVE TIES WITH FIDEL CASTRO. (PRESIDENT DID NOT ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN EQUATION OF PGT AND EGP.) AS FOR THE POSSIBILITY THAT EGP ACTIVITY IS CONNECTED WITH THE PROBLEM OF BELIZE, PRESIDENT SAID, WE DON'T HAVE ANY SOLID PROOF BUT WE DO HAVE A STRONG SUSPICION. FOR EXAMPLE, (MINISTER OF STATE) SHOMAN AND LATER (PREMIER) PRICE HIMSELF SAID IN MEXICO THAT THEY WOULD WELCOME VOLUNTEERS FROM CUBA (SEE REFTELS). IF CUBA CAN SEND 15,000 MEN TO ANGOLA, IT CAN SEND TROOPS TO OUR TERRITORY MUCH MORE EASILY. BUT WE ARE PREPARED TO DEFEND OURSELVES AGAINST ENGLAND, AND WE WILL DEFEND OURSELVES ALSO AGAINST CUBA.

3. AS FOR COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT, IT IS ABSOLUTELY FALSE, PRESIDENT SAID, THAT HE HAD WITHDRAWN ANY ASSISTANCE FROM THE COOPERATIVES OR CHANGED GOG'S POLICY TOWARD THEM. IN FACT, HE HAD ORDERED THE AIR FORCE TO PROVIDE REGULAR TRANSPORT SERVICE TO THE CAMPESINOS OF THE IXCAN AREA WHO HAVE NO OTHER COMMUNICATION WITH OUTSIDE WORLD. (IXCAN AREA IS ONE WHERE GUERRILLAS RUMORED TO BE ACTIVE.) WE ARE TAKING IN EVERYTHING THEY NEED AND TAKING THEIR PRODUCE OUT. IF THERE IS ANYTHING ELSE I CAN DO TO HELP THE COOPERATIVES, I WILL DO IT, PRESIDENT SAID. ANDREWS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, INTERVENTION, INDEPENDENCE, PRESS CONFERENCES, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, ALLEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976GUATEM06138  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760331-0313  
**From:** GUATEMALA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t1976084/aaaaacut.tel  
**Line Count:** 90  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 GUATEMALA 3529, 76 BELIZE 431  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT SAYS CUBAN INTERVENTION IN BELIZE POSSIBLE  
**TAGS:** PBOR, PINS, GT, BH, CU, UK, (LAUGERUD GARCIA, KJELL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006